

the concession were made hastily, and not by progressive steps, the unaccustomed light of an almost boundless liberty, bursting upon its giddy votaries, might hurl them into revolutionary excesses.

The event has proved the justice of their conclusions, and the patriotism of their opposition. But now, when the reformed constitution has proved its working to be salutary, these very men who once opposed its introduction from motives of precaution, will now be found to be the warmest advocates for preserving it from the corrupting influences of misused patronage, or despicable intrigue.

With this view, we, who are proud to claim an humble place among the ranks of this party, will endeavor to point out any errors into which we have fallen since the introduction of the reformed constitution.

In the first place, however, we must finish our brief sketch of the introduction of Responsible Government.

Lord John Russell's famous despatch, which did in reality establish the right of the Colony to self government, in all matters not touching the prerogative, was variously construed.—the party who claimed the right of the Parliamentary majority to decide who should be the advisers of the Crown, looked upon it, as it in truth was, as a recognition of the new principle in the constitution. The other party, on the contrary, saw in the reservation with which it concluded, an attempt to blink the question, and hugged themselves with the idea that it was thrown overboard.

A third party—formed under the auspices of Lord Sydenham—believed that it was a troublesome principle, admitted; but admitted in such a cautious way that it might be set aside, by openly declaring adherence to it, and secretly taking every possible precaution to prevent its great principle from working. In plain terms, they determined by certain influences, to cause the representatives of the people not to represent the people. This was effective policy for a time. It secured the object of those who were afraid to give power to the real men of the people, so long as the master hand of Lord Sydenham guided the helm of state.

But even then, symptoms of the steadfast purpose of the Reform party to have the constitution in its purity, were apparent. By one fact it was clearly demonstrated. Mr. Baldwin, suddenly called to the Executive of Lord Sydenham, as suddenly retired from it. The reasons of this retirement were—*"Because he found his new colleagues unwilling to carry out with him the liberal policy which, he contended, was urgently demanded by the people; and because he found the Governor unwilling to force any member of his Council, to pledge himself to any decisive course."*